



November 28, 2017

Dear Citizens:

In order to protect and preserve Corsicana's neighborhoods and the public health, safety and welfare of those who live here, ordinances have been established that create standards for property maintenance. The Community Support Department is responsible for enforcing these ordinances, issuing citations for violations, responding to citizens' questions and complaints, and helping to ensure that Corsicana is a clean and safe place to live and work.

- Tall grass and weeds—Grass and weeds over 8" tall shall not cover more than 10% of the property.
- Trash and debris—Trash and debris shall not be stored on the property.

Of all the code compliance areas, the most frequent problem is tall grass and weeds. Year to date, 7,428 notices to citizens on all code issues have been sent. Of these, 3,377 or 45% are for tall grass and weeds. The number for trash and debris is 393 or 5%. These two areas represent the largest threat to public health and safety and 50% of the City effort goes to reducing these violations.

Tall grass harbors rodents and other vermin, and trash and debris provide a food source and shelter. From October through February, rodents sneak into homes in search of food, water and shelter as the weather cools down. But they are more than a nuisance as they can spread hundreds of disease-transmitting pathogens through urine, feces, or bites that can make humans very ill. Rodents don't need much of an invitation to enter your home: a rat can squeeze through an opening as small as a quarter, while a mouse can fit its way into a hole smaller than a dime.

Here are a few tips to keep rodents out:

- Look for possible entry points outside the home and seal cracks and holes with a cement or mixing compound if any are found. Think, "where would YOU hide or enter if you were a rodent?" It'll be hidden, dark, probably warm, and difficult to reach!
- Install weather strips at the bottom of all exterior doors.
- Keep mulch, plants and trees away from the foundation of your home. Rodents like to use this as harborage. Trim back branches and bushes, clean up debris and clear gutters to direct water away from the home.
- Clean in and around the home. The most effective rodent repellent method is cleanliness. Store food properly by keeping it sealed tightly in rodent-proof containers like plastic bins or metal canisters.
- Ensure garbage bags are placed in sealed metal or plastic containers.

- Look for the signs of rodents. They defecate and urinate dozens of times a day, so if you spot feces or yellowish-brown stains on the floor – usually near baseboards or in the corners of rooms – that’s a good indication that rodents might be present.
- Citizens that live near open fields should be extra diligent.

While this is an important health and safety issue, the best control happens in individual businesses and homes. The City is not licensed to provide pest control and public poisoning poses inherent liability risks. Rodent removal can be difficult for an untrained individual, as rodents are clever and learn from failed baiting and trapping attempts. If you suspect you have an infestation, contact a professional immediately as rodents multiply quickly.

Sincerely,

Don Denbow  
Mayor